

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. MAURITIUS MOVES LEFT

EMBASSY PORT LOUIS REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO NEARLY COMPLETE RESULTS, THE MAURITIAN GENERAL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 20 PRODUCED A MARKED MOVE TO THE LEFT. THE SOCIALIST MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT, WHICH HELD ONLY ONE SEAT IN THE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT, APPARENTLY HAS WON 30 OF THE 62 SEATS. THE RULING INDEPENDENCE PARTY, CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPORTED MAINLY BY HINDUS AND MOSLEMS AND FAVORING A WELFARE STATE, WON 25 SEATS. THE FREE ENTERPRISE-ORIENTED MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WON 7 SEATS. THE OTHER 18 PARTIES WHICH CONTESTED THE ELECTION WON NO SEATS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PORT LOUIS 1125.

2. DE LA PUENTE PUNTS?

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EMBASSY LIMA REPORTS THAT RUMORS EMANATING FROM THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUNTE HAS HANDED IN HIS

RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. THE REPORTED RESIGNATION, WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PRESIDENT, IS SAID TO HAVE COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF:

--DE LA PUENTE'S MISHANDLING OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR MORALES BERMUDEZ' VISIT TO ECUADOR, WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY CANCELLED;

--MILITARY OPPOSITION TO DE LA PUENTE'S BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR PROPOSAL, CRITICIZED AS "TOO CLEVER" IN ITS SUGGESTED REINTRODUCTION OF PERUVIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ARICA AREA; AND

--NAVY AMBITIONS TO HAVE ITS OWN MAN AS FOREIGN MINISTER. THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT NAVY MINISTER PARODI RECENTLY HAS BEEN DIPLOMATICALLY ACTIVE VIS A VIS BOTH ECUADOR AND CHILE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 11427, 12/20.

3. SOVIET-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

THE VIETNAMESE DESK OFFICER IN THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY RECENTLY TOLD A JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIAL THAT SOVIET-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS ARE "VERY SATISFACTORY,"  
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WITH "NO POLITICAL PROBLEMS EVEN ABOUT CHINA." AS REPORTED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW, THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT:

--SOVIET AID TO VIETNAM IS "VERY, VERY BIG."

--THE USSR DOUBTS THE WISDOM OF HANOI'S INTEREST IN QUICKLY BUILDING LARGE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

--MOSCOW CONSIDERS AS NORMAL VIETNAM'S EFFORTS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE WEST AND JAPAN, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE ARE LIMITS TO SOVIET AID CAPABILITIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS ACCOUNT PAINTS A GENERALLY ROSY PICTURE, WHICH WE THINK ACCURATELY REFLECTS SOVIET VIEWS. WHILE IT IS ARGUABLE WHETHER THE VIETNAMESE ARE IN THE SOVIET "ORBIT," THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT RELATIONS ARE VERY CLOSE. SOVIET POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS

BASED PRIMARILY ON THIS RELATIONSHIP, AND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A STRONG AND UNITED VIETNAM IS IN MOSCOW'S INTEREST. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 19810, 12/20.

4. MARSEILLE'S DEFFERRE: THE VIEW FROM THE LEFT

DURING AN "EXTREMELY CORDIAL" MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR RUSH, MARSEILLE MAYOR AND LEADING SOCIALIST DEPUTY GASTON DEFFERRE MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS ON THE FRENCH POLITICAL SCENE. ACCORDING TO DEFFERRE:

--PRESIDENT GISCARD, NOT A DECISIVE MAN, HAS POSTPONED MAKING CRUCIAL DECISIONS. NOW IT IS TOO LATE.

--AS A NON-GAULLIST, PRIME MINISTER BARRE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THE GAULLISTS IN LINE.

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--WHETHER OR NOT BARRE'S ECONOMIC PLAN SUCCEEDS, IT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE LEFT'S CHANCES IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL PROBABLY OCCUR AS SCHEDULED IN 1978.

--THE LEFT NONETHELESS HOPES, BUT DOES NOT EXPECT, THAT THE BARRE PLAN WILL SUCCEED, AS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE LEFT TO EXERCISE POWER IN 1978 IN THE MIDST OF A DETERIORATED ECONOMIC SITUATION.

--A LEFT VICTORY WOULD CAUSE AN "EXPLOSION" TRANSFORMING FRANCE'S POLITICAL CLIMATE, BUT THE LEFT WOULD NOT DEMAND THAT GISCARD STEP DOWN. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 37416, 12/17.  
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